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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/892,901	06/27/2001	Richard Chadbourne	003B.0024.U1(US)	1590
29683	7590	04/19/2004	EXAMINER	
HARRINGTON & SMITH, LLP			HYEON, HAE M	
4 RESEARCH DRIVE			ART UNIT	
SHELTON, CT 06484-6212			PAPER NUMBER	

2839

DATE MAILED: 04/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Applicati n No.

09/892,901

Applicant(s)

CHADBOURNE, RICHARD

Examiner

Hae M Hyeon

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5, 8-14, 19, 22-26, 31 and 32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 6, 15-18, 20, 21 and 27-30 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 February 2002 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/31/03
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to because the reference number "96" for the bus bar in Figures 3-5 should be -- 9b --. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

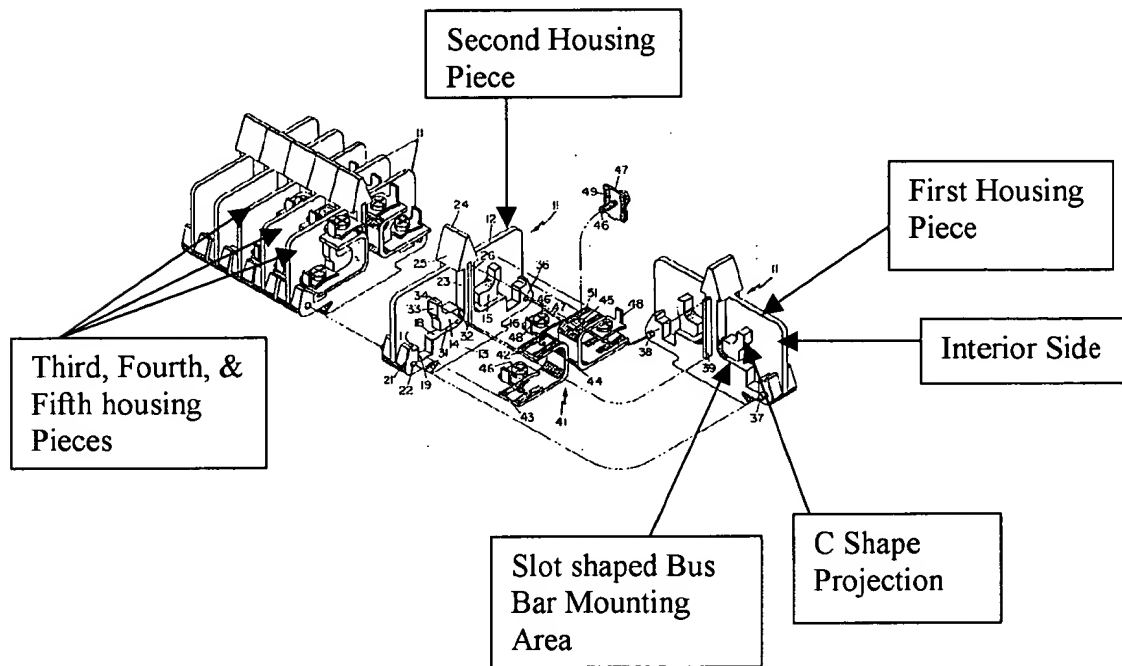
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-3, 8-10, 14, 22-26, 31 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mahon et al (3,474,383).

Mahon discloses a terminal block, which is a type of an electrical power connection block, comprising an insulative first housing piece a first exterior side and an interior side with a general C shape projection forming a first slot shaped bus bar mounting area and an insulative second housing piece having a first side located directly opposite the interior side of the first housing piece and a second general C shape projection 14 forming a second slot shaped bus bar mounting area 31 on the first side of the second housing piece. The first and second housing pieces also include projections 37, 38 and recesses 22, 36 for interlocking connection of the housing pieces. The first and second housing pieces form a first bus bar receiving area that

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receives opposite side edges of a bus bar 41. The first housing piece includes a second projection 15 having a general C shape and extending inward from the interior side. Mahon discloses a plurality of housing pieces interlock each other to form the bus bar receiving areas between the housing pieces.



Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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5. Claims 5, 11-13, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mahon et al in view of Gordon (2,892,176).

Claims 5, 11, 12 and 19 recite the power connection block housing having fastener mounting areas and claim 13 recites a cover connected to at least one of the housing pieces.

Mahon does not disclose the fastener mounting areas and the cover, but Gordon teaches a terminal blocks having fastener mounting areas 27 for mounting the terminal blocks and a cover 31 for protecting terminal posts 17 against access of dirt, moisture and other foreign material.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the terminal block taught by Mahon such that it would have fastener mounting areas and a cover as taught by Gordon because the fastener mounting areas would allow the terminal block to be mounted on a desired place and the cover would protect terminals of the terminal block against access of dirt, moisture and other foreign material.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 4, 6, 15-18, 20, 21 and 27-30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US Patent No. 4,040,711 by Waddington et al.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hae M Hyeon whose AU is 2839 and whose telephone number is 571-272-2093. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. (8:30-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn D Feild can be reached on 571-272-2092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the telephone number 571-272-2800 ext 39.

Any response to this action may be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

For additional information regarding this new address, which was effective May 1, 2003, see *Correspondence with the United States Patent and Trademark Office*, 68 Fed. Reg. 14332 (March 25, 2003).

Hae M Hyeon
Examiner
Art Unit 2839

hnh

hnh

Hae Moon Hyeon